CCRB INVESTIGATIVE RECOMMENDATION

Investigator Assigned:	Team:	CCRB Case		Force	Discourtesy	
	Squad #7 20170		1844	✓ Abuse	O.L.	Injury
Date/Time of Incident:	Location of Incident: In front of 1032 Ogden Avenue			ct. of Occurrence:	Date S.O.L. I	Expires:
Wed, 03/08/2017 07:10 PM				44	09/08/2018	
Date/Time C/V Reported:	C/V Reported At:	How C/V Reported:		Date/Time Received at CCRB:		
Thu, 03/09/2017 08:32 PM	CCRB	On-line website		Thu, 03/09/2017 08:32 PM		
Complainant/Victim	Туре	Home Address				
1.	Comp/Victim					
Subject Officer(s)	Shield TaxID	Command				
3. POM Rafael Morales	14062	044 PCT				
Officer(s)	Allegation		Recommendation			
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						_
		÷				
F. POM Rafael Morales	Abuse of Authority: the vehicle in which			Morales searched occupant.	F. Unsubst	antiated

Case Summary filed the following complaint via the CCRB online website (Board On March 9, 2017, of the 44th Precinct reported the incident to the Review 01). On March 9, 2017, Police Officer Internal Affairs Bureau (IAB) to address Mr. allegation that his property was damaged while in police custody (Board Review 02; 03; 04). The complaint generated original log number 17-8599, and was received at the CCRB on May 16, 2017. On March 8, 2017, at approximately 7:10 p.m., PO PO Morales, all of the 44th Precinct, stopped Mr. vehicle as he was double-parked outside of 1032 Ogden exited his vehicle, at which point PO Avenue in the Bronx. Mr. frisked and allegedly searched him PO also allegedly searched and frisked Mr. PO searched Mr. vehicle, where he recovered a gravity knife PO Morales also vehicle (Allegation F). PO drove Mr. vehicle to the 44th allegedly searched Mr. was issued a summons for a loud Precinct Stationhouse and damaged the vehicle Mr. exhaust, and was arrested for possession of a gravity knife (Board Review 05; 06). He was ultimately released with a Desk Appearance Ticket (DAT) (Board Review 07). Video footage from Express NYC Laundry City, located at 1027 Ogden Ave in the Bronx, showed PO vehicle, and showed Mr. vehicle stop multiple times while being (Board Review 11). Relevant portions of the video footage are embedded below (Board searching Mr. operated by PO Review 08; 09). The full videos can be found IA #27 (Board Review 10). 201701844 20170519_1213 DM.mp4 201701844 20170519 1202 DM.mp4 Mediation, Civil and Criminal Histories Civilian and Officer CCRB Histories

- PO Morales has been a member of the NYPD for nine years. He has one other open CCRB complaint, case 201609960, in which five allegations are pleaded against him. The allegations do not indicate any pattern applicable to this case.
- PO Morales has had nine prior CCRB cases involving nineteen allegations, none of which were substantiated. Among his past allegations were three allegations of vehicle stops and two allegations of vehicle searches, all of which were unsubstantiated. His other past allegations do not indicate any pattern applicable to this case.

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Allegation F – Abuse of Authority: Police Officer Rafael Morales searched the vehicle in which
was an occupant.
It is undisputed that PO searched Mr. vehicle.
Mr. stated that after being frisked and searched, he stood behind his car with PO
which time PO entered Mr. car via the driver's door. He opened the center console, and
looked under the driver seat, passenger seat, and backseat, where Mr. jacket was. PO
recovered a gravity knife, which Mr. uses for work, from the inner pocket of the jacket. In his sworn
statement, Mr. stated that while PO searched the car, PO Morales opened the passenger door
and briefly looked around the car with his flashlight but did not enter the car. In his phone statement, Mr.
stated that PO Morales entered his car but did not search the car as aggressively as PO did not allege that PO Morales searched his car in his original statement or his statement to IAB.
PO stated that he searched Mr. car in order to determine whether there were any
additional narcotics or weapons inside of the car, though there was no indication that Mr. was in
possession of a weapon. During the search, he picked up Mr. jacket and found a gravity knife. PO
denied that PO or PO Morales searched the car or touched any contents of the car.
PO Morales denied opening any car doors or searching the car in any way. He did not observe
anything that would have led to a search of the car, and PO did not inform him of anything he'd
observed that would lead to the search. PO had no recollection of any officers being present other than
himself and PO
The footage from Express NYC Laundry City does not clearly capture the passenger side of Mr.
car. It is therefore unclear if any officer searches the car via the passenger side. The footage only shows PO entering the car via the driver's side.
A vehicle may be searched without a warrant if officers have probable cause to believe that the vehicle
contains contraband or evidence of a crime. <u>People v. Smith</u> , A.D. Slip Op 5934 (end Dep't 2012) (Board
Review 25). Smelling marijuana emanating from a defendant's vehicle provides officers with probable cause
to search the vehicle. People v. Chestnut, 43 A.D.2d 260 (Board Review 24).
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Mr. provided inconsistent statements regarding whether or not PO Morales searched his car,
and the video footage was inconclusive regarding whether PO Morales did so. PO Morales denied searching the car and saw no reason to search the car, and PO denied that PO Morales searched the car. Due to the
inconsistent and conflicting testimonies, absent witness testimony or additional documentary evidence, the
investigation was unable to determine by a preponderance of the evidence whether PO Morales searched Mr.
vehicle. It is therefore recommended that Allegation F be closed as Unsubstantiated.

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Squad: 7				
Investigator:			7/7/17 Date	
Squad Leader			04/03/17	
Reviewer:			Date	
	Title/Signature	Print	Date	

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